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The existence of conflicts of opinion on many points in the law of chattel mortgages, together with the marked differences in the statutory requirements of the several states as to execution, filing or recording, etc., justifies, perhaps, the making of books of this character, and the plan adopted by the author has been well executed.

It may be suggested, however, that this method of treating a subject may be disadvantageous in the long run because of its tendency to emphasize local peculiarities and to prevent the ultimate harmonizing of the law. Such a plan of treatment results in giving but a partial view of a topic.

A mortgagor of a stock of merchandise in Michigan may remain in possession and sell the chattels in the ordinary course of trade, by an agreement to this effect in the mortgage, and the mortgage is not for this reason deemed fraudulent; while in Illinois such a mortgage is considered fraudulent as to third persons.

In these works the law on this point seems correctly stated as to each of these states. No suggestion, however, is made in either work that there is a difference of opinion and practice in this regard, and the plan of the works precludes a discussion of the question. One obtains, therefore, from either book alone, an incomplete view of this practical matter, and is not even made aware of the fact that there are divergent views held on it in these and other neighboring states.

Had these two works been combined in one treatise, much that is common to both need not have been repeated in each, while, at the same time, a broader view of the law would have been given and comparisons could have been made where conflicts occur, with brief statements of reasons, not only interesting in themselves, but of practical importance and value to the lawyer and business man in particular instances.

The author has so well done his work as he designed it, that it is apparent he could have made a treatise of more general value had he aimed to do so.

JAMES H. BREWSTER

VOID JUDICIAL SALES. By A. C. Freeman. Fourth edition, February, 1902.

One vol., 8vo., pp. 345, Sheep, \$4.00., delivered. Central Law Journal Co., St. Louis, Mo.

The work is divided into seven chapters: 1. Introduction; 2. Sales void because the court had no authority to enter the judgment, or order of sale; 3. Sales void because of errors or omissions subsequent to the judgment of order of sale; 4. Proceedings after sale; 5. The legal and equitable rights of purchaser at void sales; 6. The constitutionality of curative statutes; 7. The constitutionality of statutes authorizing involuntary sales. This edition is well printed on good white paper, the text in small pica, the notes in brierley, all leaded. The first edition appeared in 1877, in 144 pages. That text appears in the present edition substantially unchanged. In the second and third editions new matter was added by inserting paragraphs under the original sections, of which there were sixty-nine. In the present edition the same practice has been followed; but several new sections have been inserted, numbered 9a, 9b, 19a, etc. The index refers to sections, several of which cover eight or ten pages each. The author cites the official reports and gives parallel references to the American Decisions, American Reports,

and American State Reports, which are very rich in decisions on this branch of law. But he does not cite the L. R. A. at all, nor the West Reporters, unless the case is not officially reported. The propositions of law are clearly and accurately stated, as all acquainted with the other works of the author would expect. The title is a narrow one, and even that does not seem to be exhausted. One thing may be said of this book, which I am sorry to say has not been found true of all law books in these days: the reader may depend on finding the cases cited to be in point.

JOHN R. ROOD

TABULATED DIGEST OF THE DIVORCE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.—By
Hugo Hirsch of the New York Bar. Second edition. New York:
Funk & Wagnalls Co. 1901.

This is a chart, about three feet nine inches long by two feet three inches wide, giving in parallel columns, under the names of the several states, a brief digest of the grounds for divorce or separation, the effect (as to right to marry again, etc.), the period of residence required, and the chief points respecting jurisdiction and the service of process. Its purpose is stated to be "to enable lawyers and laity to see at a glance what are the laws of each state and territory, to be able at once to compare those laws, and to ascertain all this without any trouble or research into many volumes of statutes, codes, and general and special acts." Much labor has doubtless been expended upon this chart, and it shows much ingenuity in classifying and arranging the matter, but it is certainly questionable whether such an abridgement is useful to the lawyer or safely to be relied upon by the laity.

FLOYD R. MECHEM